relevant factors which in the opinion of the Government are important for fixation of support prices. Apart from making a comprehensive overview of the entire structure of the economy of a particularly commodity the CACP considers important factors such as cost of production, changes in input prices, input/output price parity, trends in market prices, demand and supply situation, inter-crop price parity, effect on general price level, effect on cost of living, international market price situation and parity betwees prices paid and prices received by farmers (Terms of Trade).

(b) The minimum support prices fixed by the Government are uniform for the country as a whole. The differential prices at regional levels are not being fixed since it is felt that a uniform support price for the whole country alone can lead to efficient utilisation of resources.

(c) The minimum support prices announced by the Government are remunerative prices since these cover not only the cost of production but also a reasonable margin of profit.

(d) While formulating its recommendations on price policy the CACP takes into account, among other things international market price situation.

Maintenance of support of agricultural produce

7155. SHRI AHMED MOHAMEDBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Executives of Central and State Cooperative Marketing Federation and Oil Seed Growers' Federation recently met in New Delhi and finalised a startegy to ensure effective market intervention by Government in maintaining the support price of Agricultural produce in the coming Rabi season;

(b) if so, what were the main decisions arrived at;

(c) whether Government have finalised any strategy to ensure effective market intervention; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) A meeting of the Chief Executives of the State Cooperative Marketing Federations and Oilseeds Growers Federations was convened by National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED the nodle agency for undertaking price support operations in selected oilseeds and pulses.

(b) to (d) The meeting reviewed the crops prospects of kharif oilseeds and pulses. The operational and financial arrangements for procurement of oilseeds and pulses, in case the need arises, for price support operations were finalised to ensure that prices of oilseeds and pulses of specified fair average quality (FAQ) variety do not fall below the support prices and prevent distress sale by farmers.

Separate aviation wing for locust control

7156. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a separate aviation wing for locust control measures;

(b) if so, what is the progress made in this direction;

(c) whether Government is also considering to acquire different types of aircrafts for locust control measures as well as crop survey operations and cloud seeding to bring artificial rains; and

(d) if so, what progress has been made by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (d) Agro-Aviation Wing of the Ministry of Agriculture was transferred to Ministry of Civil Aviation in May, 1987 and subsequently to Vayudoot Ltd. in January, 1988. In view of the severe locust upsurge faced by the country during Summer of 1993, Government is considering to reactivate Agricultural Aviation Wing under the Administrative control of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Weed Growth affecting wheat cultivation

7157. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 34 lakh hectare area under cultivation of wheat is affected by the menace of weed growth in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this has cut yield upto 60 per cent at certain places; and

(c) the steps being taken or already taken to check this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Sir, on an average yield losses due to menace of weed growth in wheat is 20-25 per cent.

(c) The following steps are being taken to check the weed menace in wheat crop:—

1. Education the farmers about cultural, mechanical and chemical methods of weed control including proper use of weedicides.

2. Ensuring timely availability of quality weedicides for control of weeds in wheat crop.

Inadequate agricultural infrastructure to meet the food need

7158. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agricultural infrastructure in India and other developing countries of Asia is inadequat to meet the food needs as stated by World Bank recently;

(b) if so, the reaction of government on the World Bank remarks;

(c) whether Government have taken any concrete steps to boost agricultural infrastructure in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM (a) Though it is not true of the whole of Asia, World Bank reports in the past have noted that infrastructure in India is a constraint to agricultural production.

(b) to (d) The Government is aware that a great deal of potential in agriculture remains unexploited due to inadequate infrastructure, food processing technology, lack of adequ- marketing linkages and policy implements. To realise this potential, corrective measures are being undertaken under the new economic policy to put agriculture on a path of sustained, broad based development.

DMS outlet in Rohini

7159. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has not opened any outlet booth of DMS in Rohini, Delhi if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;